

ENHANCING TRIBAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION

EPA REGION 10 BROWNFIELDS ASSISTANCE

AK, ID, OR, WA



EPA 910-F-05-002



TRIBAL



Fast Facts:

Region 10 includes Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Brownfield: (broun'feld) n. Real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Why Cleanup Brownfields?

- It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the U.S. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties:

- increases local tax bases
- facilitates job growth
- utilizes existing infrastructure
- takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land
- improves and protects the environment

Contact us:

Visit our website at
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>, or
call the Region 10 office in
Seattle:
800-424-4EPA,
(Local)
206-553-1200

Assistance through the EPA Brownfields Program empowers tribal communities to assume a proactive role in cleaning up and redeveloping contaminated sites. The EPA Brownfields Program was founded on the belief that cleaning up properties for reuse invigorates local economies, preserves green space, and prevents sprawl. EPA staff in Region 10 work with federal, state, tribal, public, and private partners to help local decision-makers restore land for a variety of uses. EPA assistance helps tribes **build organizational capacity** for response programs and brownfields remediation, provides **technical assistance** for assessment and cleanup projects, and helps **forge valuable partnerships** with other federal, state, and local entities to address contaminated sites.

Capacity Building—Makah Tribe

Living in the northwest corner of the Olympic Peninsula, the Makah Tribe was constantly confronted with marine oil spills that threatened their waters and food supply. They lacked the staff and resources to respond quickly, and found that a Brownfields Response Program grant, designated for states and tribes, was an ideal vehicle to help them develop a response program for oil spills.



Oil spill response trailer, Makah Tribe, Washington



Design by Jack Hudson for the Metlakatla Tribe

- Funding from the EPA Brownfields Program enabled the Makah Tribe in Clallam County, Washington to obtain an oil spill response trailer and emergency response equipment.
- Fifteen tribal members were trained in emergency response using equipment such as oil absorbent materials, safety gear, and special equipment to deal with oiled wildlife.

"We are the first tribe in the Northwest to receive our own oil spill response trailer. More than 15,000 vessels transit our waters each year. We have been hard hit by oil spills in the past. This improves our emergency response capabilities."

-- Vince Cooke, environmental division manager for the Makah Tribe

Technical Assistance—Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Many communities may not have experience redeveloping a contaminated site, and EPA staff can help guide grantees through the complex process of environmental assessment and cleanup. The 2,100 square mile Colville Reservation is one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest,

and needed to prioritize brownfields sites in need of cleanup.

- Through an EPA Assessment grant, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation conducted a brownfields assessment project to survey and inventory almost 30 waste sites on the reservation. EPA supported records research, public outreach, and site visits to identify existing public health threats.
- EPA Staff provided the on-hand expertise to help tribal leaders determine contamination levels and develop a plan for cleaning up the sites found with the most hazardous pollutants.
- The Tribe's Environmental Trust Department now collaborates with EPA programs to review and approve cleanup plans and verify when cleanup activities are complete.

Forging Valuable Partnerships— Metlakatla Indian Community

Like many of the region's smaller communities, many tribal communities often do not have the resources to redevelop a contaminated site on their own. Partnering with other local, state, and federal entities enables tribal communities to benefit from outside resources who can support cleanup, promote redevelopment, and encourage economic revitalization. In 1997, the Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) declared their community an "economic disaster area" due to underutilized facilities, a poor fishing harvest, and unknown levels of contamination at several sites. EPA designated MIC as a Showcase Community in 2001, creating a

working partnership dedicated to cleaning up the sites and invigorating the failing local economy.

- Historic federal facility activities on their land had left the tribe with over 70 contaminated sites. The Showcase Community partnership prompted a number of historical facility operators to collaborate with MIC in remediation efforts at several sites.
- EPA senior staff facilitated an interagency workgroup and helped clarify the roles and obligations of various agencies involved with the contaminated sites. EPA also helped lay the foundation for cleanup by conducting targeted brownfields assessments.
- Through these partnerships, MIC leaders are developing an integrated brownfields plan to cleanup three priority sites: 1) a radio relay site; 2) a former power plant; and 3) the main airport hanger building. The cleanup of these sites will encourage their redevelopment and create approximately 20 new jobs.



***Metlakatla tribal design by
Jack Hudson***



***Collecting samples, Metlakatla
Indian Community, Alaska***

Grant Funding:

Brownfields grants serve as the foundation of EPA's Brownfields Program. There are four types of competitive grants: assessment grants, cleanup grants, cleanup revolving loan fund grants, and job training grants. In addition to direct Brownfields funding, EPA also provides a variety of assistance. This could include an initial environment assessment of the property, assistance with community involvement, and help with cleanup and redevelopment planning. Past recipients of Brownfields funding include tribes, non-profit organizations, local governments, development agencies, states and coalitions.

For competitive grants, applicants are encouraged to review the guidelines and to participate in one of the grant training opportunities that are held region-wide in the fall. Applications are generally due in November each year.